

American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



Statement

Statement attributable to: Thomas R. Reardon, MD
Chair, American Medical Association

AMA LAUDS PATIENT RIGHTS LEGISLATION

"The American Medical Association commends Senator Daschle, Senator Kennedy, Representative Gephardt and Representative Dingell for their efforts to develop the Patients' Bill of Rights. The bills contain a number of provisions that are consistent with patient protection principles that the AMA has been advocating for several years. The principles include providing better information to patients on insurance policies, banning gag rules, a prudent lay person standard for emergency services, external review of health plan denials, and holding health plans accountable for making medical treatment decisions.

"The AMA believes that certain rights are essential if all patients are to receive quality care from their health plans.

"We hope that this legislation and other measures will ultimately lead to a bipartisan solution to the concerns expressed by many patients and their physicians. The AMA will continue to work with House and Senate leaders on both sides of the aisle and President Clinton to enact meaningful protections for America's patients this year."

3-31-98

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